



SLINGSHOT
GROUP

HOW TO ENGAGE THE FAMILY



THINK HOLISTICALLY ABOUT YOUR AUDIENCE

- We've been provided an unprecedented opportunity to communicate to the entire family all at once. Don't forget the kids and students that are listening and communicate to them too.
- Think about communicating with narratives and presenting one main point, not many points. Take this opportunity to teach in a different way; get outside or change the environment. Your teaching doesn't have to just be you at the pulpit on stage, talking to an empty room.
- Lessen the time that you speak; attention spans are shortened online. Simplify the message, but don't water it down. Your adults and kids will thank you.



MAKE PARENTS PRIMARY AND GET OUT OF THE DRIVER'S SEAT

- Parents, not the church, should be the drivers of the spiritual formation of their children. Take a cue from Home Depot when it comes to your approach to family ministry: "You can do it and we can help." Most parents are intimidated by taking the lead because they were never disciplined themselves. Remove barriers by providing the tools they need.
- Parents and their kids are having more conversations than ever right now. Provide resources that can help them guide their kids through critical spiritual and life milestones.
- You don't have to create, just facilitate. Point the way to what others have made. There are plenty of resources already created, such as Bible reading plans for families, YouTube videos, family devotionals, and key conversation guides.



PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION AND GROWTH

- Isolation is a tool the enemy will use in this time of social distancing. Facilitate parent ZOOM call meetups and hangouts.
- Think about starting a book club on a parenting book, like *Spiritual Parenting* or *Shepherding a Child's Heart*.

THINK "ROOT," NOT "FRUIT"

- Our job as leaders and parents is to cultivate the soil – fruit is the supernatural work.
- If we focus on the fruit, then we miss the heart. True spiritual transformation is the goal, not behavior modification.
- Encourage parents to look beyond what their kids are doing and focus on why they are doing it. We can expect our kids to be extra sensitive, or even to have breakdowns right now, because they can sense the fear that is pervasive in our world. This is a great opportunity to lead our families in having real conversations about the fact that God is on the throne and we can trust Him.





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